

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action mailed November 1, 2007. The status of the application is as follows:

- Claims 1-5 and 7-21 are currently pending, claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 16 and 17 have been amended, and claim 21 has been added;
- Claims 1-4, 9, 11-16, and 20 are rejected as obvious over Van Eijk et al. ("Nd³⁺ and Pr³⁺ Doped Inorganic Scintillators") in view of Boerner et al. (US Publication No. 2001/0006214 A1);
- Claims 7 and 8 are rejected as obvious over Van Eijk et al. and Boerner et al., and further in view of Tonami et al. (US 5,909,029);
- Claims 14-16 are rejected as obvious over Van Eijk et al. and Boerner et al., and further in view of Juestel et al. (US 6,734,631 B2);
- Claim 17 is rejected as obvious over Van Eijk et al., Boerner et al., and Juestel et al., and further in view of Tonami et al.; and
- Claims 18 and 19 are rejected as obvious over Van Eijk et al. and Boerner et al., and further in view of Juestel et al.

The rejections are discussed below.

The Rejection of Claims 1-4, 9, 11-16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 9, 11-16, and 20 stand rejected as obvious over Van Eijk et al. in view of Boerner et al. This rejection should be withdrawn because the combination of Van Eijk et al. and Boerner et al. does not teach or suggest all the limitations of the subject claims and, therefore, the Office has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obvious with respect to the subject claims.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, (CCPA 1974). MPEP §2143.03.

Amended independent **claim 1** is directed towards a device for generating images and/or projections that includes a device for the detection of input radiation, which includes at least one

acquisition element which comprises a sensor with a Pr^{3+} -activated scintillator for converting the input radiation into UV radiation, wherein the Pr^{3+} -activated scintillator includes at least one from the group $\text{LuF}_3:\text{Pr}$, $\text{LuCl}_3:\text{Pr}$, and $\text{LuBr}_3:\text{Pr}$. The combination of Van Eijk et al. and Boerner et al. does not teach or suggest such a scintillator. Accordingly, this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claim 2, which depends from claim 1, recites that the group further includes $(\text{Lu}_1\text{Y}_x)\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7:\text{Pr}$, where $0 \leq x \leq 1$. The combination of Van Eijk et al. and Boerner et al. does not teach or suggest this claim aspect, and, thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Independent **claim 9** is directed towards a device for the detection of input radiation which includes at least one acquisition element which comprises a sensor with a Pr^{3+} -activated scintillator for converting the input radiation into UV radiation, a color converter that converts UV radiation to an optical signal, and a photodiode which converts the optical signal into an electrical signal, wherein the color converter includes a polymer light guide. The combination of Van Eijk et al. and Boerner et al. does not teach or suggest these claim aspects. Hence, this rejection of should be withdrawn.

The Rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 17 stands rejected as obvious over Van Eijk et al., Boerner et al., and Juestel et al., and further in view of Tonami et al. This rejection should be withdrawn because the combination of Van Eijk et al., Boerner et al., Juestel et al. and Tonami et al. does not teach or suggest all the limitations of the subject claims and, therefore, this combination fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obvious with respect to claim 17.

More particularly, independent **claim 17** is directed to an imaging method that includes, *inter alia*, receiving one of an X-ray and a γ quantum at a Pr^{3+} -activated scintillator, wherein the Pr^{3+} -activated scintillator is one of $\text{LuCl}_3:\text{Pr}$, $\text{LuBr}_3:\text{Pr}$, $(\text{Lu}_{2-x}\text{Y}_x)\text{SiO}_5:\text{Pr}$, where $0 \leq x \leq 1$, and $(\text{Lu}_{1-x}\text{Y}_x)\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7:\text{Pr}$, where $0 \leq x \leq 1$. The combination of Van Eijk et al., Boerner et al., Juestel et al. and Tonami et al. does not teach or suggest such claim aspects. Therefore, this rejection of claim 17 should be withdrawn.

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Other Claims

The claims not mentioned above depend from independent claims 1, 9 or 17, and are allowable at by virtue of their dependencies.

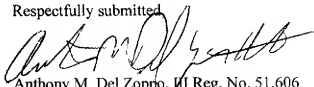
New Claim

Newly added **claim 21**, which depends from claim 9, includes aspects absent from the art of record. In particular, claim 21 requires the color converter to be doped with a Courmarin based substance. No new matter has been added. Entry and allowance of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted



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